The cultivated plant successfully produced flowers and fruits, but at a different time. The growth and density of hairs in the specimen 624 C may be due to the saline condition of soil in which it was grown.

The Eastern Himalaya also has a moist type of environment, differing from the relatively dry climate of Nepal, due to which *S. indica* growing in the Eastern Himalaya naturally have larger leaves and some other characters different from those of the type from Nepal, "*Wallich* 624". The wide range of variation in the vegetative and reproductive parts is due to the different habitats in which the plant is growing.

On examining the specimen Wall. list no. 621 with reference to the specimen Wall. list no. 624, it has been found that the two so called taxa do not have considerable difference between them. Hence *L. nutans* Royle may better be merged with *Silene indica* Roxb., as done by G. Bocquet in Candollea 22:12 (1967). As a result of this merging, the name *Silene thomsonii* Majumdar (1963) proposed carlier for *Lychnis nutans* Royle, also becomes a synonym of *Silene indica* Roxb.

Botanical Survey of India,
Howrah-711 103,
February 7, 1977.

N. C. MAJUMDAR

41. *KALLSTROEMIA PUBESCENS* (DON) DANDY—A NEW RECORD FOR MAHARASHTRA STATE

(*With a text-figure*)

A persual of the available literature shows that in the State of Maharashtra the family Zygophyllaceae is represented by only six genera, namely *Tribulus, Seetzenia, Peganum, Zygophyllum, Fagonia* and *Guaiacum*. So far the occurrence of the genus *Kallstroemia* Scop. in the State of Maharashtra has not been recorded. As far as I am aware, the only record of this genus in India is by Bennet (1965).[1] He recorded the occurrence of *Kallstroemia pubescens* (Don) Dandy. from Howrah District, West Bengal. The present report is the second record of *Kallstroemia* Scop. for the Indian flora and the first record of Maharashtra.

[1] Bennet, S. S. R. (1965): Genus *Kallstroemia* Scop. (Zygophyllaceae)—New to Indian flora. *Indian Forester 91*(5): 281-283.

Kallstroemia Scop. is represented by the species *Kallstroemia pubescens* (Don) Dandy. This species, a native of Tropical America, was collected from Gorepeth, Nagpur. Only a few plants were growing luxuriantly along the roadside, near a newly constructed wall, during the monsoon season in August 1976.

Kallstroemia pubescens (Don) Dandy in Kew Bull. 1955: 138.

Tribulus pubescens Don, Gen. Syst. 1: 769, 1831.

Diffuse procumbent herb, stem including branches 20-50 cm long, pubescent with white hairs, younger parts densely pubescent; leaves 2-5 cm long, abruptly pinnate, usually opposite, occasionally alternate towards the base of the branches, when opposite one of each pair alternately smaller, rachis 1-3.5 cm long, pub-

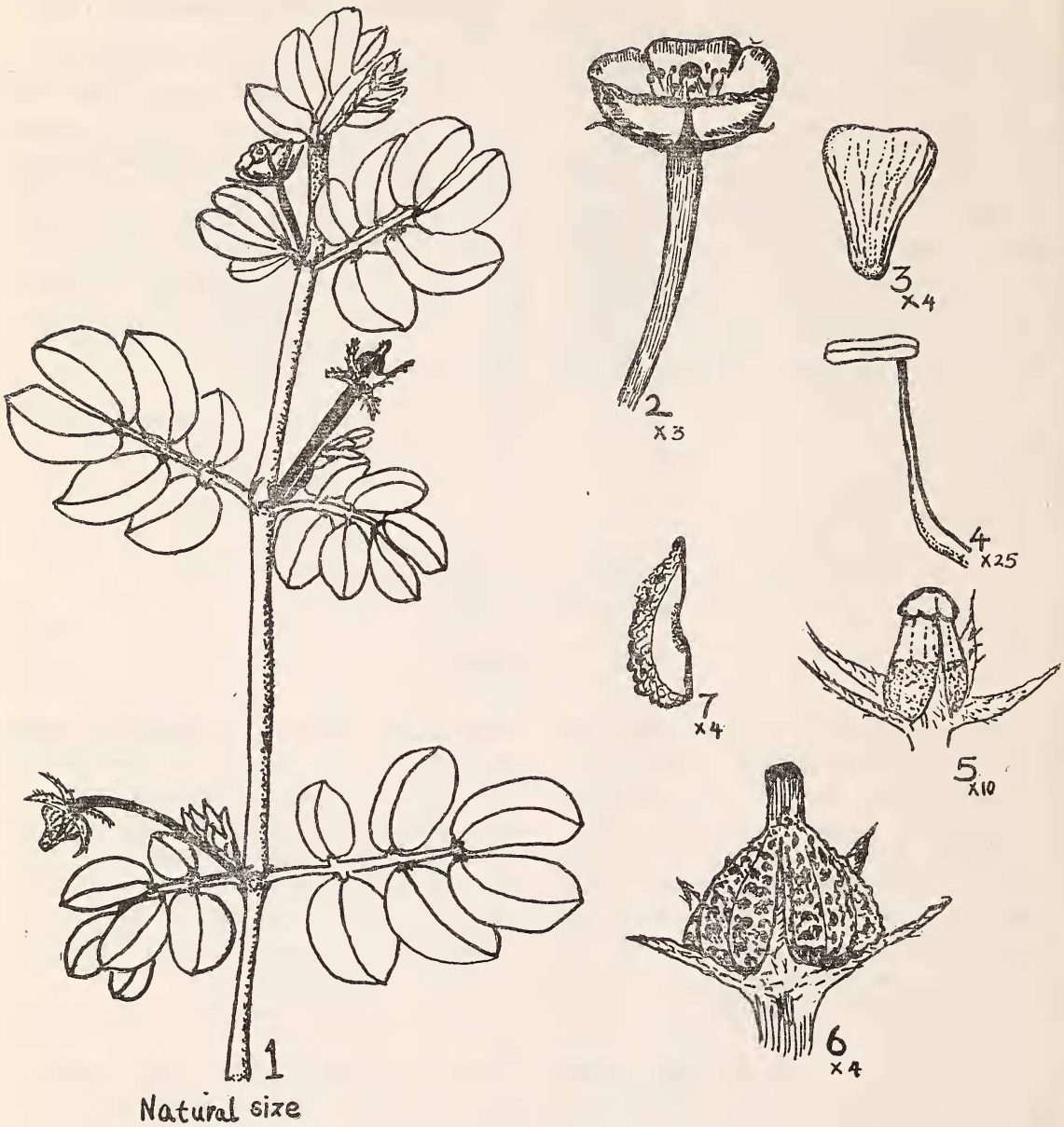

Fig. 1. *Kallstroemia pubescens* (Don) Dandy
1. Part of the plant; 2. flower; 3. petal showing forked veins; 4. stamen; 5. flower without sepals and stamens; 6. fruit; 7. coccus.

escent, leaflets in 2-4 unequal pairs, terminal pairs largest, 1.2-1-8 cm × 0.7-1.1 cm, elliptic or narrowly elliptic, entire apiculate, margin and surfaces hairy, stipules 3-5 mm long, linear, lanceolate, hairy; flowers solitary, axillary or leaf opposed, pedicels at length slightly thickening upwards, pubescent 1.2-1.8 cm long, sepals 5, each 4.5-6 mm long, narrowly lanceolate, accuminate, densely pubescent; petals 5, each 6-7 mm long, attractive yellow, obovate, veiny, veins forked at the tip, stamens 10, those opposite the petals larger and alternate ones smaller with conspicuous stalked glands at base; ovary 8-12 lobed, 8-12 celled, one pendulous ovule in each cell; style stout, conical, 10 furrowed; stigma capitate, 10 ribbed; fruit separating in to 8-12 tubercled cocci; cocci one seeded.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Shri M. V. Mirashi, Principal, Government College, Aurangabad, for his kind help in identification of the plant and to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta, for confirming the identification.

A. V. BHIDE

Botany Department,
Institute of Science,
Nagpur,
March 8, 1977.

42. A NOTE ON DISTRIBUTION OF SOME GRASSES IN ASSAM

The most comprehensive work on the grasses of eastern India was published by Dr. N. L. Bor in 1940, as a part of the FLORA OF ASSAM (Kanjilal *et al.* 1934-1940).

In 1960 Bor published an account of grasses of India as a whole, but notes on distribution and description are very brief in this work. Some studies were therefore undertaken for assessing the present position of the family Poaceae in the reorganised State of Assam. The material lodged in Assam Herbarium was studied and a number of fresh collection trips were undertaken. The studies led to discovery of several new distributional records.

Agrostis myriantha Hook. f.

This species was reported earlier from Sikkim, Naga Hills and higher altitudes in Meghalaya (Hooker 1896; Bor 1940, 1960). It has also been reported from Kurseong in north Bengal (Matthew 1966) and Kothong in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh (Deb & Dutta 1974).

This grass does not seem to have been reported from the present Assam or any area in the plains of Assam. A specimen collected by Kingdon-Ward (20051) in 1950 from an area near Sadiya has been seen in the Assam Herbarium. Sadiya is located in the plains of Assam. The altitude of Sadiya is about 200 m.

An effort was made to find out the exact location of Kingdon-Ward's collections in 1950 with the help of this book PILGRIMAGE FOR PLANTS (1960). This reference did not help much except that it was confirmed that this collection was made in one of his journeys through Sadiya. This seems to be the first report of this grass from plains in Assam. Hooker (1896) mentioned two varieties of this grass. Bor (1940, 1960) commented that one seems to be only a robust form of the other and consequently did not maintain Hooker's varieties. Ward's specimen is rather slender and has distinct oblong ligules and agrees with description of Hooker's var. *sikkimensis,* which